

THE TRAVELERS

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Len Burgess

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Vigo County Historical Society
(1969)

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE**

Vigo County Public Library

Burgess Family

April 13, 1971

Mr. Raymond Burgess
P. O. Box 634
Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Dear Mr. Burgess:

Mrs. Clark of Terre Haute turned over your material to me in the hopes that I could come up with a new idea.

I have analyzed your records and feel that the problem will not be solved in Indiana. Kentucky is your place to search. Unless a person's death record or obituary tells the name of the parents, it has to be worked out the hard way before the 1850 census when a person might be living with his parents.

Mrs. Clark gave me \$ 5.00, of which I am keeping \$ 1.00 and refunding \$ 4.00 to you.

Sincerely,

#10,30

Mar - 30 - 1971

Dear Mrs Clark.

My desire for you is to establish if possible the Parentage of John Henry Byers.

Inclosed a shot of the 1850 Census record and a little more info

check 5.00 to make \$10.00

I will go to Ky for a genealogist latter on.

Sincerely yours

Raymond Byers

308 Miller St

Milton Freewater

Ore 97862

Hill House/379 Edgerton Drive/San Bernardino, Cal. 92405

Ed: M. R. Burgess

---A Short History of the John Henry Burgess Family---

(Thanks to Joachim Burgess, Raymond Burgess, and Paul Burgess for their assistance and records)

Family tradition places the origin of our line in Virginia, with a certain George Washington Burgess: this gentleman was said to have had a considerable estate and numerous slaves, and was believed related to George Washington, after whom he was named. Regretably, no historical evidence has yet been found to support this forebearer's existence; nor has it been possible to determine the original family estate, if indeed one existed. The first ancestor of whom definite records exist, John Henry Burgess, is known (though his death certificate) to have been born somewhere in Kentucky on July 15, 1801--his parents and exact place of birth are not mentioned in the documents uncovered to date (many of these presumably perished in a fire which destroyed his home shortly after his death). According to the traditional family account, John was a schoolteacher in Lexington, Kentucky, about 1820. About 1823 he eloped with a young pupil, Martha Lawson (nicknamed Patsy), daughter of Jacob Lawson, who apparently was fairly wealthy. The account told by Joachim Burgess (who received it from his uncle, John Harris Burgess), is as follows:

'The day before the planned elopement, John instructed his future bride to pack her clothing in a pair of saddle bags, and conceal them near the gate of her home. That night under the cover of darkness he stole onto her father's estate and retrieved them; and together with provisions made ready a pair of horses. The next morning Patsy was conducted as usual to school by her Negro groom--John was waiting, mounted and armed with a long-barrelled ball and cap rifle, the saddle bags slung across his mount. They rode north out of town, heading toward the Indiana border, and after a day and night ride, finally reached the Ohio River and safety.'

It has been presumed that John and his family then settled in Indiana, remaining there through 1855; the historical data, however, indicates otherwise. The census of 1850 lists the Burgesses in detail--as recorded on Sept. 19, 1850, for district 137 of Green Township, Parke County, Indiana, this is the family of John H. Burgess:

Lot #	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value of Property	Place Born
839	John H. Burgess	49	M	Farmer	\$3000	Ken
	Martha (Patsy)	43	F			"
	John M.	22	M	Farmer		"
	Lucinda	19	F			"
	Jacob L.	18	M	Farmer	Ca. 1832	"
	Thomas F.	16	M		Ca. 1834	Ind
	James S.	12	M			"
	Harrison M.	11	M			"
	Martha J.	7	F			"
	Miranda J.	5	F			"
	Sarah J.	11/12	F			"
840	George W. Burgess	24	M	Farmer		"
	Mary E.	18	F			Ken
842	July Ann Burgess	36	F			Ken
	Penelope	16	F			"
	Franklin	13	M			"
	Elizabeth	12	F			"
	Nora	6	F			"
	Lucy	5	F			"

The 1810 Census for Ky

Gives several Burgesses who

Were the right age to have

Son in 1801

Henry in Fleming Co

Henry in Floyd Co

John "

John " Harrison Co.

The record is given exactly as written. It should be noted that John's oldest son, William Henry, is not listed, and could not be found: since he had a family of his own at this time, it is presumed that he was either living elsewhere in Indiana or still remained in Kentucky. John had apparently given his next son, George Washington, a piece of his own land when George married, for the lots are numbered consecutively. Two lots away lived July Ann Burgess, a presumably widowed relative recently arrived from Kentucky: at her husband's death (he may have been a cousin or younger brother) John apparently offered her sanctuary and another part of his extensive holdings. The name does not occur in the family traditions, though it is known Patsy had a younger sister Juliann, who had married John Todd, Mary Todd's brother, in 1829.

The census information indicates that the family may have lived in Indiana for about three years, and then returned to Kentucky; Thomas is known to have been born in 1833, so they must have returned in about the year 1832. There is, however, some doubt that John ever lived in Indiana before the 1832 date: the marshall taking the census could easily have extended his ditto marks one line too far, for there is no space between the entries for lots 839 and 840. Further, a later record of a possible descendant of George, George T. Burgess, who was living in Carrolton, Missouri, in 1881, indicates that G.T. was born in Putnam County, Indiana, the son of George W. Burgess, a native of Kentucky. The Burgess family lived in or near Portland Mills, Indiana, a community almost precisely on the border between Parke and Putnam counties. The matter needs further examination: location of the listing of William H. Burgess could solve the problem.

Patsy's father died in 1854, and this seems to have been an occasion for a visit by her sister Juliann (the possibility exists that the tale has become jumbled with time, and it is, in fact, an account of the arrival of July Ann Burgess). As told to Joachim, this is the story:

'They arrived in a yellow travelling coach drawn by four horses, with two Negro coachmen. As the carriage drew to a stop, one of the servants stepped down to assist his master; and John Todd opened the door, dressed in the fashion of the times in a tall beaver hat, long brown coat, and pants strapped under his boots. He helped his wife to debark, and a Negro servant grasped the train of her skirt to keep it from dragging on the ground. That night the slaves slept on the kitchen floor.'

In the Fall of 1855, John and his family migrated by wagon train to southern Minnesota, where new lands were opening up for settlement as the Sioux Indians were being driven west. He apparently received a considerable amount for his property, for he was able to bring both a saw mill and grist mill, tools, livestock, his furniture and personal library, and a real luxury for the time, a piano. The wagons were driven by oxen and conducted by free Negroes (John and his sons were anti-slavery); those who were able rode Kentucky-bred horses. John homesteaded near Eagle Lake, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, about six miles of the town of Mankato; the mills were erected on a small stream connecting that lake with another nearby, Madison Lake. It is said he fashioned his home after the Burgess ancestral estate; near the house he set up a tobacco barn and whiskey still. He secured his income from the mills (which lent their name to the neighboring community, Burgess Mills) and a bank. Most of his sons also came north within the next few years: William took a piece of land near his father, and started a school and laid out a cemetery for family members. Jacob first settled near John, and had the distinction of having the first birth in LeRay Township (George F. Burgess, March 12, 1857); the 1860 census, however, shows him living in Ceresco, in the southwestern section of the county--a contemporary account mentions that the first religious services in the area were held in his home in the summer of 1861. Two records survive transferring bounty lands to younger sons: John M. Burgess received a plot in LeRay Township on March 15, 1860, and George W. on Nov. 1, 1859. Thomas is listed in the 1860 census as living in Quincy,

Mrs Dorothy J Clark

2032 No 8th St

Terre Haute Ind. 47804

Dear Madam

Some one in the court House referred us your name
We are trying to Back track John Henry Burgess - and
Martha (Patsy) Lawson -

Story is that John started a school in
Lexington Ky. about 1820 Eloped with his
student Martha Lawson to Indiana - The Lawson
we supposed to be well to do

We hope to find where they were married who
there (Johns) parents were

Word of mouth says his father was Geo Washington
Burgess - I some times believe his father was a
Henry Burgess (Minister) 1801-1810 Floyd Co Ky. marriage record
We also find a Henry in Census record of 1880 Ky Fleming Co
But no Geo Washington in Virginia Tax Rolls 1785
Norfolk Co. Portsmouth, So side of Western Branch of Mill
Creek Ten children - Some think this is our progenitor.
This man was born about 1730 He would be a rather
old person to have sons in 1801 - and 1800 another (Geo 1800)
Washington believed to be Bro of John Henry Burgess
Whether this Geo Wash. was a progenitor it would seem
there would have to be some one in between, to father
John Henry -

The Geo Washington name does not hold any significance
as early as 1730 as that is when our ^{list} present H W was
born -

There was however a Henry John Burgess a
Minister in the Episcopal Church in Virginia in 1786
Tyler - 7.T. 117

Virginia Census 1782-1795 list a Rev. Henry Burgess
(Glebe) surry Co 3 children -

Name sequence suggest this could be our line
only speculative -

I am sending \$500 to do a preliminary survey around
Terre Haute and Parkers Let me know what your fee is
and an estimate on work, over

Raymond O Burgess

308 Miller St PO Box 634
Millon-Freewater Ore 97862

By the way my Grand Father was Thomas Fleming Burgess
no 5 on sheet. Married in Minn. all Jan 1 - 1857
I have sent for marriage license photo.

I was too young to remember him but we have
a good record for him. Says he was Irish Descent.
Farm house was on Banks of Wabash river
near Terre Haute, Ind. We believe all the children
of John Henry were born in Indiana. He migrated
to Minn. in 1855. Some of his children came
with him. he has left a good record in
Eagle Lake Minn.

John Henry B. Built first school house then
also first church (Christian) laid out the
graveyard where he is buried. Had flour
mill and distilling. His sons had first
store in (Portland Mill name changed to
Eagle Lake) Minn.

John Henrys B. Death Certificate is in
Wanketo County Clerk Office, Blue Earth Co Minn.
Please let us hear from you -
as a friend in need.

Yours truly

Raymond O Burgess

P.S. We think the name Fleming is in
memory of a man named Fleming who
a county in Ky is named for. also a friend
of the Burgess Family (word of mouth)

HUSBAND Burgess John Henry
 Birth 1801 Place maybe - Fleming Co. Ky
 Chr Place
 Death 1894 ~~1884~~ Place Eagle Lake Blue Earth MINN.
 Burial BURGESS GENEVA 2ND Place S.A.M.E.
 Mar 1822? Place ? Ind.
 Father Mother (Maiden Name)

WIFE LAWSON Martha (Patsy)

Birth.....5 April 1809 Place.....LEXINGTON Ky?
Chr..... Place.....
Death 20 Sept 1887 Place.....? MARKET MN.
Burial..... Place.....
Father JAMESON JACOB Mother (Maiden Name) Sally Polla

WE THINK Pollard could Be

DOCUMENT DATED: Maiden name of Sally

RECORDED:

JURISDICTION	
DATE OF SEARCH	
..... DEEDS	 RECORDED COPY
..... WILLS	 TRANSCRIBED COPY
..... COURT	 EXTRACT
..... MARRIAGE	 ORIGINAL
..... TOMBSTONES	 LEGIBILITY
..... OBITUARY	
..... INTERVIEW	
ENC. #	SEARCH # VOL. PAGE

[illegible]

Raymond O. Burgess
(R.O. Box 634)
308 Miller St.
Milton-Freewater, Ore. 97862

rec'd bet.
Mar. 26-71

\$ 5.00

rec'd
Mar 30

~~5.00~~
10.00

Sept 1-1850 census for location of family.

Nevins Family

April 13, 1971

Dr. Irmagene Holloway
1600 South Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Dr. Holloway:

Mrs. Robert Clark of Terre Haute turned over your material to me last week in the hopes I could come up with something.

I am afraid that our sources at the State Library have even less than those which she could consult.

For George Nevins' parents, North Carolina would be the place to search. If the father was Henry, finding a death certificate at that early date would be impossible.

Mrs. Clark gave me \$ 5.00, of which I am keeping \$ 1.00 and refunding \$ 4.00 to you.

Sincerely,

\$10.00 check

*I will keep \$5.00 & send
copy of Nevins family tree to her.
& explain you will carry on ---*

1600 South Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202
March 30, 1971

Mrs. Robert I. Clark
Local Historian & Genealogist
2052 North Eighth Street
Terre Haute, Indiana 47804

Dear Mrs. Clark:

I am grateful to the Clerk of Vigo County for sending my request concerning members of the Nevins and Rice family to you. It is good to know you have a "pretty complete NEVINS family tree compiled for a previous client." Also, I am glad to learn this included George Nevins.

A check for \$10. is enclosed for beginning a research project on my family tree. Will you please, keep an accurate account of the time used in this research project and submit your bill.

The information that I desire includes the following:

1. Where was George Nevins born, when did he die? Can you obtain a death certificate? Did he have a son Michael Rice Nevins?

× According to our family records, he was born in 1787 in Forseythe County, North Carolina and died in 1853.

- × What were the names of his parents? Our records say this was Henry Nevins. Can you verify this statement? Also, a death certificate for Henry.

2. Where was Susan Jane Vancamp born? Do you have any information relative to her parents?

I have a copy of the marriage certificate of Michael Rice Nevins and Susan J. Vancamp, dated 21 of October, 1853. This was obtained from Parke County Clerk.

3. What information can you obtain relative to Catherine Rice? She married George Nevins and was the mother of Michael Rice Nevins, my grandfather.

Was Michael Rice her father? What information can be obtained relative to this family.

With your vital records, the library files, the Vigo County Historial Society files, I hope you will be able to obtain information which will be helpful to me, without too much expense involved.

On Thursday, April 1, I will fly to Europe and will be out of the Country until the first of May. As soon as you have obtained information which will be helpful to me in tracing my genealogy, please send this to Mrs. Dora Lee Wright, 711 Chillum Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20783.

Thank you very much,

Irmagene Nevins Holloway

1600 South Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202
March 22, 1971

County Clerk
Vigao County
Terra Haute, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I am seeking information relative to the family of NEVINS and Rice. If there is a will, deed or death certification that might be of assistance in this search in Vigo County records, I would be most appreciative of securing this information.

My great-grandfather is supposed to be George Nevins, who at one time owned a 'township' in Viggo County, this was back in 1811. I would like to secure confirmation of this fact. If you have any information which might be used in tracing my ancestry, I would be most appreciative. George Nevins married Catherine (Katherine, Cathine) Rice.

In looking through your records, if you find reference to information I would be most grateful.

Any cost in obtaining this information would be paid. I expect to pay all costs.

Sincerely,

Irmagene NEVINS Holloway

March 26, 1971

Dr. Irmagene Nevins Holloway
1600 South Joyce Street
Arlington, Va. 22202

Dear Dr. Holloway:

Thank you for your letter of March 22nd addressed to the Clerk of Vigo County, Indiana. That office is neither staffed nor has time for queries of a genealogical nature. As I am the only professional genealogist in the area, all requests for information are forwarded on to me for answer.

I charge \$3 per hour with a minimum fee of \$10 before beginning any new client's research work.

In my files I have a pretty complete NEVINS family tree compiled for a previous client. There is a township in Vigo County named for the Nevins pioneer family...there were five brothers who came here about the same time and your George was one of them. I can furnish a copy of this tree, as well as search the county vital records, the library files, the Vigo County Historical Society files(I am Executive Secretary and Museum Curator), the five county histories(which I have indexed), and the census schedules.

The amount of your check will indicate the time you wish spent in the research. Let me hear from you if my services are desired.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy J.Clark(Mrs.Robert I.)

Rae Genfile — "Crooks-Nevins"